

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated October 10, 2006.

Claims 1, 2, and 3 are amended and no claims are canceled or are added; as a result, claims 1-3 remain pending in this application.

§101 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Office Action asserts that claim 2 fails to provide a useful concrete and tangible result. Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion and respectfully submits that the claim sets forth an arrangement of transaction data within a data structure that is directly or indirectly linked and the linking provides searchability. Nevertheless, Applicant has amended claim 2 to clarify that the data of a single transaction is searchable in a single query by a retrieval processor. Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment clarifies the utility of the subject matter of claim 2. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection of claim 2.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has amended claim 2, which now recites in part:

“data associated with a single transaction and stored in each of the transaction specification database, the life cycle Index table, the archive database, and the log detail database is searchable by a retrieval processor in a single query, wherein the retrieval processor is a computer process.”

Although the claim still recites “searchable,” the claim now specifies that the searching is performed by a retrieval processor. The retrieval processor in the amended claim is a positive recitation and is not optional. Further, the term searchable highlights the interrelation of data within the transaction specification database, the life cycle Index table, the archive database, and

the log detail database which makes the data searchable by the retrieval processor in a single query.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the amendment to claim 2 and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for anticipation by Kanai (U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2004/0205006). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The method of claim 1 includes two or more different software systems that each produce electronic data relating to a transaction involving electronic documentation. The method involves processing copies of the electronic data to identify electronic documentation items and at least one key value associated with an electronic documentation item. Thus, each electronic documentation item is processed to at least one key value is identified.

In the corresponding portions of Kanai cited in the Office Action ([0130] and [0134]), the at least one key value is a shop ID (i.e., “sah”). The Office Action also asserts that a date and time of the reservation content could also be a key value. Thus, the key values asserted in the Office Action are shop ID and a data and time included in the content. However, paragraph [0131] of Kanai states, “There is no need for the transaction management computer 1 side to know the specific transaction content (such as the reservation content described above or a product ID and the number of products to be purchased in the case of the product sales for example).” Applicant is unsure of how an item of the reservation content, such as a date and time, could be used as a key value, as suggested in the Office Action, if the transaction management computer 1 side does not have the data.

The method of claim 1 further includes using the at least one key value to look up a transaction identifier associated with the transaction. As claimed, a transaction includes only one transaction identifier and two or more associated key values. The key value, such as “sah” in Kanai along with the transaction identifier “10293” determined by the shop computer. *See* the cited paragraphs [0130] and [0131] of Kanai. More particularly, the Office Action recites in part:

“The identity of the shop computer is used to determine what shop computer to connect to. The shop computer then determines a transaction ID. Also see paragraph [0165], which further reinforces that the transaction ID is determined by a shop computer. Therefore, the key value (the shop computer identity) is used to look up a shop computer, which then determines, or looks up, a transaction identifier, wherein the transaction includes one transaction identifier and two or more key values (see paragraphs [0130] and [0134]. Items date and time are included with the transaction. Those are examples of ‘key values’);”

However, when considering Kanai as a whole in view of the statements made in the Office Action on page nine, each site (i.e., shop) has its own software system. Thus, each shop issues its own transaction IDs. It is therefore possible that two shops could issue the same transaction ID. Therefore, for a transaction ID to be unique at the transaction management computer, the transaction ID must be combined with the shop ID to produce a unique transaction identifier as is claimed. Thus, in the cited examples, the claimed “one transaction identifier” must be “sah” plus “10293” or “sah10293.” Applicant is therefore confused as to the true nature of a shop ID. If a shop ID must be used to uniquely identify a transaction on the transaction management computer, the shop value may not also be a key value as asserted in the Office Action. Applicant submits that Kanai fails to teach or suggest either a transaction identifier or the two or more associated key values as claimed. Applicant further submits that the asserted teachings only show one of either a key value or a transaction identifier.

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Kanai fails to teach or suggest the entirety of claim 1. If the Examiner remains of the opinion that Kanai does anticipate claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests that another Office Action be issued providing further details that explain where “the transaction include one transaction identifier and two or more associated key values.” Absent such information, Applicant is unable to be fully responsive to the present Office Action, or any future actions based on Kanai.

With regards to claim 2, Applicant has amended the claim to provide a retrieval processor. Applicant is unable to find an equivalent teaching in Kanai. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is in allowable form.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 3 includes similar language to claim 1 and is therefore, equally patentable. Applicant therefore, requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3. Absent a notice of allowance, Applicant respectfully requests issuance of a non-final office action with a full explanation of where and how a unique transaction identifier is taught in Kanai along with two or more key values. Absent such an explanation and a non-final office action, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant has not been fully afforded an opportunity to respond to the current rejections.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 373-6902 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER AMYS ET AL.

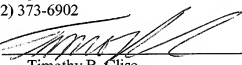
By their Representatives,

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Date

12 March '07
(Monday)

By


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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 12 day of March 2007.

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Signature

